# The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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**TWO MAJOR NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART**

CLEVELAND — A $1.5 million challenge grant has been awarded the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) by the New York-based Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It is a 2-to-1 matching grant for which the museum has already raised $1 million of the $3 million required from other sources. This grant will be used to endow two senior curatorial positions: the Robert P. Bergman Curator of Medieval Art (to be appointed) and the Curator of 19th-Century European Painting. Sylvain Bellenger, former director of the Chateau Blois in France's Loire Valley, assumed the European paintings curatorship last November.

Contributors of matching funds for the Bergman Curatorship so far are Mrs. Austin B. Chinn, Mr. and Mrs. Jon A. Lindseth, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Robertson, and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sherwin, in addition to the many gifts received through the Robert P. Bergman Memorial Fund. The Louise H. and David S. Ingalls Foundation has contributed to the 19th-century curatorial endowment.

In December 1998, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation had awarded the museum a grant of $360,000 to support three-year curatorial fellowships in three of the following four curatorial areas: Chinese painting, European decorative arts, American painting before 1945, and Greek and Roman Art. In January 2000, David Smart assumed his duties as Mellon Curatorial Fellow under the direction of Michael Bennett, associate curator of Greek and Roman art. Smart's recent career has included positions with the Black Sea Trade Project and the Harvard University Semitic Museum. Lee Huishu will begin her fellowship in mid-April under the direction of Ju-hsi Chou, curator of Chinese art. Among her numerous previous scholarly awards was a 1992 Mellon Fellowship in support of her doctoral dissertation in art history at Yale University.

In January 2000, the CMA also received a $25,000 grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation (also based in New York) to support a one-year curatorial fellowship for an early career art historian in the drawings department. Patrick Cable, a recent Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University's art history program, has been awarded this fellowship.

(more ... )

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Kate M. Sellers, acting director of the CMA, expressed that in seeking these grants, "CMA reinforces its commitment to encourage scholarship at every level. Only by endowing key curatorial positions can we secure the museum's long-term health and ensure that the museum's most extraordinary collections will always be managed by distinguished scholars. I am especially pleased that the Mellon Foundation made such a profound and welcome endorsement of the scholarly commitment of our museum."

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